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THURSDAY
JANUARY 21, 1954

John Hughes, Tracy Voorhees and Ed Martin came here this morning and we talked over the question of continued stationing of American troops in Europe. Messrs. Hughes and Voorhees had taken this up in Washington on their recent visit there and they think there is a way in which a determination of the matter might be reached which would be helpful in allaying the fear on the part of several continental nations that we intend to withdraw our forces from Europe at an early date. This has been the subject of frequent approaches to me by various French officials.

It may be that something like the Vandenberg Resolution, adapted to this subject, could later be passed in the Senate. Whatever is done should be handled in such a way that it is resolved on a NATO basis and not as a product of bilateral agreement with the French. The timing is also of great importance. I shall talk to Foster about this in Berlin and he will no doubt be approached by Bidault in this regard. What might be done would of course be predicated on determined action by the French Government to ratify EDC.

Ted Achilles and Bill Gibson called on me with the draft of a cable reporting a recent conversation with Mademoiselle Sicard, Pleven's Chef du Cabinet, which lent some support to rumors that Pleven was willing to make several changes in the text of the EDC Treaty. I told them I was seeing Pleven this afternoon and doubted whether he had anything in mind beyond the conditions already and frequently stated by the French Government. Recently propositions of this sort have been made, presumably through the Quai d'Orsay, to the Belgians and Dutch, who have turned them down cold.

Jean Monnet, Tommy and I had lunch at Prunier's. Jean has been working here this morning on his investment program problem. He is [redacted] opposed to accepting the $100,000,000 in local currencies offered by the U. S. Administration

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to the CSC with a clause providing for project-by-project review and the added proviso that the President may go to Congress later on for other sums. This is u[illegible]tisfactory to Jean, who would rather have nothing than to receive a loan on this basis. What he wishes is to have the American Government open negotiations with the CSC on the basis of an application by the latter for a loa[illegible] of $400,000,000, the final terms and amount to be decided upon after colloquies.

I went over to see René Pleven, who said Laniel is now resolved to bring the EDC Treaty before Parliament for debate as soon as possible after the Berlin Conference and to give it unstinted Government support. He expressed himself as being against any attempts to amend it and thought whatever conditions might be imposed by Parliament should be worked out after the vote on ratification. The only conditions to which he attached any considerable importance were (1) the Saar issue, and (2) the stationing of United States and U.K. troops in Europe.

I told him there had been [redacted] mentioned to me the possibility of an extension of the Ministry of Defense being built across the foot of the beautiful garden which stretches beyond his office windows. He rang for one of his assistants and told him to write a letter at once stating formally his own position of opposition to any building in this garden, which, together with the offices, is one of the finest 18th Century complexes in Paris.

Graham Martin came to see me, and I had further conversations as well with Jean Monnet.

We left at 8:20 tonight for Frankfurt.

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